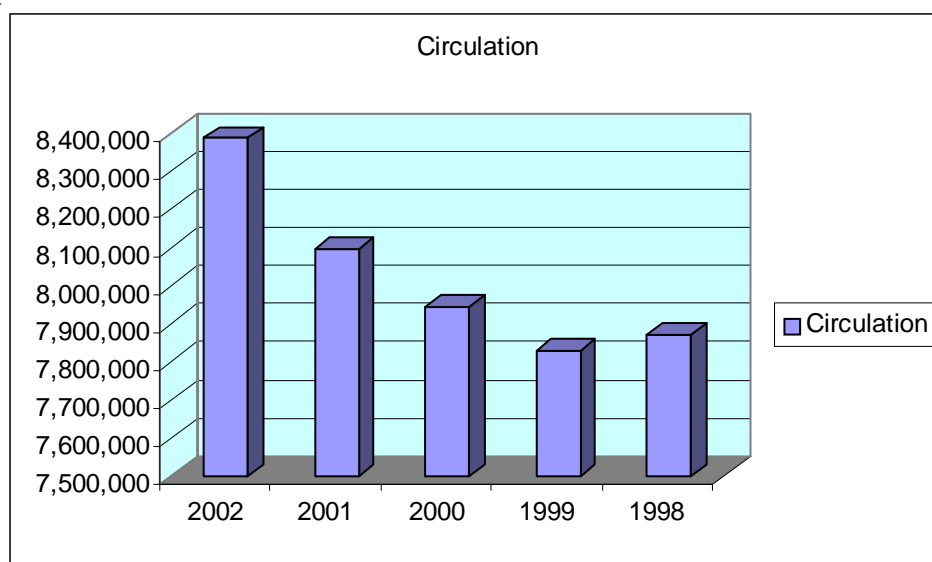
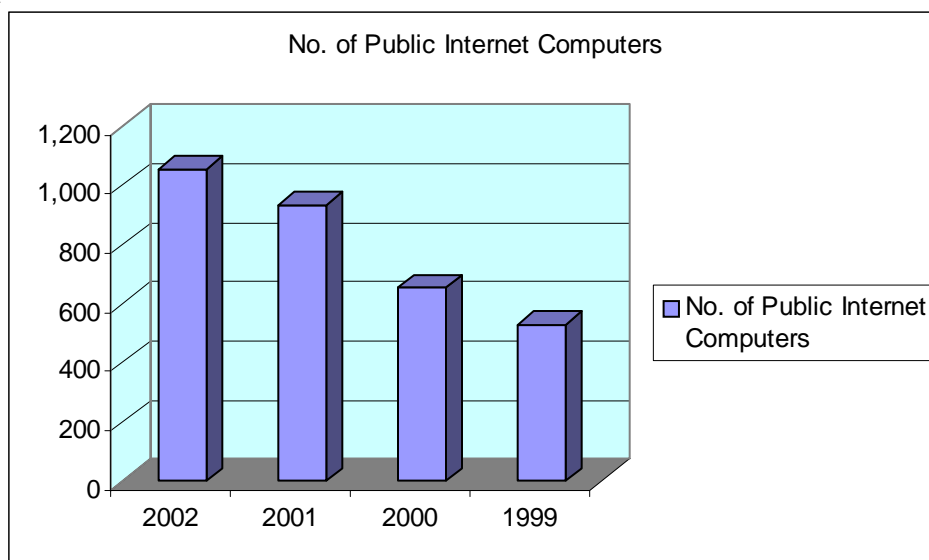


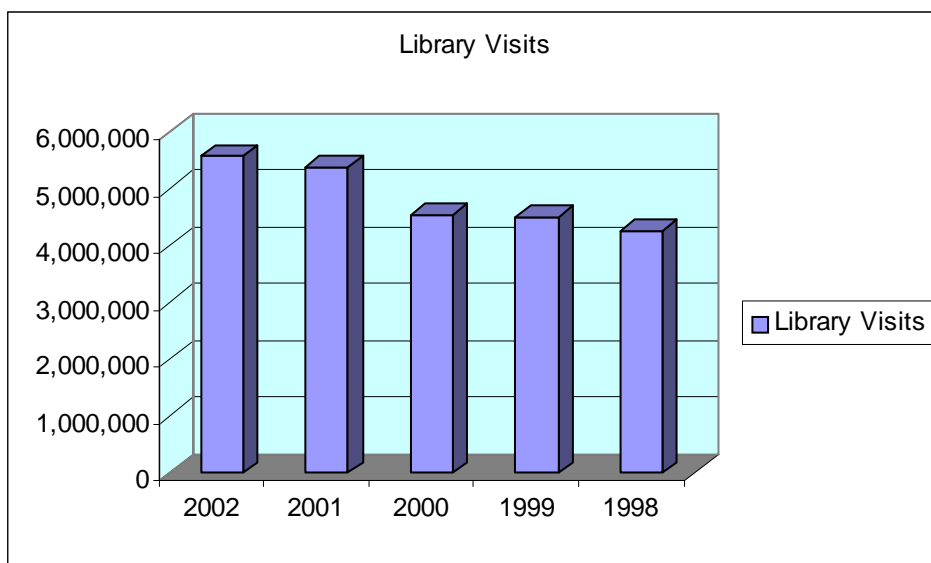
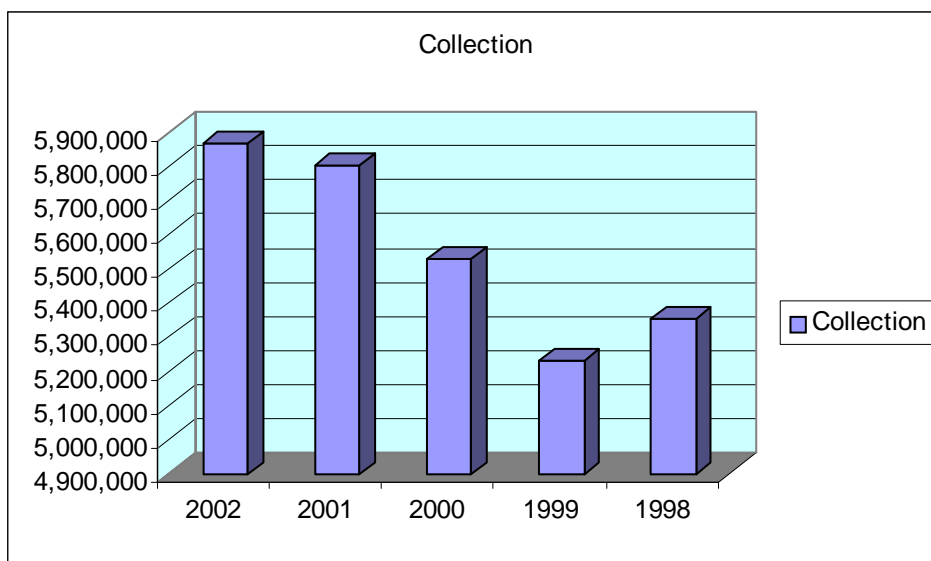
Maine Public Library Statistics 5-Year Summary

Maine currently has 274 public libraries. Six new libraries have been formed since 1999 covering an additional legal service area of 13,195. Library services in Maine have steadily increased in the last 5 years, including book and serial volumes (collection), library visits, circulation, and computer usage.

There has been a dramatic increase in computer services. Internet computers available to the public have increased by almost 50% in the last 4 years (this figure was not collected in FY1998). Users of electronic resources, which has been collected since FY2000 has increased 66%.

Circulation figures, although not as drastically, continue to rise, quelling some of the fears that computers would disrupt standard library services. Total circulation has increased by 6.2% (8,387,545 total items circulated in FY2002). Book and serial volumes figure (collection) has also increased by 8.7%. Collection expenditures have increased 17%.





Also on the increase since 1998 are reference transactions up by 13%; Interlibrary Loans Received up 22% and Interlibrary Loans Provided to up by 16%. Audio Materials have increased 22%; Video Materials have increased 40%; and Materials in Electronic Format have increased 68%.

Salaries (benefits excluded) have risen by over \$4 million since 1998. The number of FTE MLS librarians has seen an increase of 20 - from 118 in 1998 to 138 in 2002. Total FTE employees has also increased by 129 - from 558 in 1998 to 687 in 2002.